

Call for poly advice body is likely

by David Walker.

The committee of inquiry into higher education in the public sector announced last week by the Government is likely to recommend the establishment of a national body to advise on polytechnic and some further education college development.

However, the interests represented on the committee, especially the polytechnic directors, further education teachers and local authorities, will disagree sharply whether such a national planning body should have financial power with a block grant from Whitehall and whether it should remove the polytechnics from local control.

The polytechnic directors are delighted with the committee. Sir Alexander Smith, director of Manchester Polytechnic and former chairman of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, spoke of its role in sorting out "the utter mess" in the management of further and higher education.

Dr Arthur Suddaby, chairman of the CDF and provost of the City of London Polytechnic, welcomed the committee's terms of reference as a step forward in recognizing the separateness of higher from further education.

The committee, which will be chaired by Mr Fowler, Minister of State overseeing higher education, will "consider measures to improve the system of management and control of higher education in the maintained sector and its better coordination with higher education in the universities and, in the light of developments in relation to development and local authority finance, what regional and national machinery might be established for this purpose."

It will have three members from

the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, two from the CDF, one from the Association of Principals of Colleges and about eight from the local authority associations. The rest of its membership of between 18 and 25 will come from bodies such as the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, the Council for National Academic Awards and the regional advisory councils for technological education on the nomination of the Government.

The reaction of the local authorities to the committee, expressed at last week's meeting of the Council of Local Education Authorities in Manchester, was one of suspicion. They agreed that further discussion was needed of a memorandum issued by CLEA last year urging the establishment of regional machinery for coordinating further and higher education, but councillors and their officers emphasized that the future of the polytechnics lay with L.E.A.s.

Sir Ashley Bramall, leader of the Inner London Education Authority and chairman of CLEA, warned of a new tough attitude towards polytechnic control. "If the DES is serious in wanting to look at financial control, they have got to look at the mechanism linking local authorities and the spending of cash in further education colleges. You cannot have local authority control of higher education spending and complete freedom for every local college."

The agenda of the committee of inquiry is likely to include the following items. First, it has to overcome the semantic and political differences between the terms higher education, advanced further education and further education.

The NATFHE, for example, is known to be worried that the committee's terms of reference concede the case for the separation of further and higher, a policy which it opposes since it draws its members from the whole range of institutions.

Second, the committee will be expected to pronounce on the future of the regional advisory councils. Mr D. T. M. Bennett, joint secretary of the standing conference of regional advisory councils, welcomed the committee, provided it tried to harness the expertise within the advisory councils. But he also warned of the danger of preoccupation with arrangements at the expense of the aims and objectives of higher and further education.

The possible role of the training colleges and former colleges of education in this inquiry is ambiguous. The Government said it would not be possible to include representatives of interests concerned only with particular aspects, such as supply and training of teachers for schools or the contribution of the voluntary colleges.

Such interests would be consulted later either by some special arrangement for bringing them into the discussion on particular aspects or by renewed discussion in the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Training of Teachers.

The thorniest question confronting the inquiry is probably that of finance. Mr Fowler recently expressed official concern of a system of pooling the costs of higher education courses in polytechnics and colleges. The committee will have to decide whether the finance of public sector higher education should be taken out of the rate support grant system.

MPs urge DES to release teacher admission details

by David Hencke

Parliamentary pressure is growing to force civil servants in the Department of Education and Science to release full details of the individual teacher training admissions for 1977 for every college and polytechnic department of education.

The moves follow a statement issued by the DES that it cannot publish detailed figures because they are "provisional and incomplete," a reference to the fact that the Church of England colleges, alone among teacher training institutions, until the futures of Cullham and All Saints colleges are resolved.

Mr Alan Beith, the new Liberal spokesman on education, this week tabled a question to Mr Mulloy, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, asking for individual figures for every local authority college and figures for individual institutions sent to the Catholic Education Council, the British and Foreign Schools Society and the Methodist Church.

Mr Beith said that he was opposed to the Department's secretiveness in refusing to give details of admission figures. Just as he had been opposed to the virtual reorganisation of public-sector higher education by the DES which, he said, had begun merely as a numbers exercise and ended in a large number of mergers, creating a new range of institutions.

The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education was also planning this week to contact some of its MPs, asking

them to raise in the House the question of the refusal to give information.

Mr Michael Healey, a servant who signed the new figures for 1977, the week that he had the press. He said he would prefer to give the figures, although he added: "cost of printing them is expensive."

Meanwhile, local authorities began to examine the details of the cuts on teacher institutions, and in Essex, Essex, is considering whether to close one of its training departments.

An official for the DES said the intake figures for its two new colleges of education were lower than those of the new Chelmsford Higher Education Institute of Higher Education and Clacton.

A spokesman said an end teacher training in a need to be fully demonstrated although he could not say the proportion had been raised.

Bradford education has been placed in similar admission figures for its colleges in Bradford and 70 for Bingley.

Dai meets non-Welsh Goliath

by Stephen Pile

The 360 court members of the University of Wales will this week meet in Cardiff to discuss the University's future.

After 25 years in office Prince Philip resigned the chairmanship earlier this year suggesting that son Charles, being Prince of Wales, would make a good successor. The University's MPs and academics who accepted his nomination. The University, however, took the view that the prince, perhaps, would not be best served by a non-Welsh Goliath whose sister is regularly fished out of water jumps.

Mr Neil Caldwell, the NUS (Wales) secretary, said: "The campaign is not over and there is a lot of work to be done. We have been surprised by the support we have received from the students and workers. We have equal rights in the making process."

The students' poster and publicity campaign has been gaining momentum over the past three weeks. The University of Wales showed solidarity in the ways, during a three-day conference at the Swansea, last weekend.

The University's recurrent grant has not itself been cut. But it will be affected by the increased national insurance employers' contribution also announced by Mr Healey last week. The universities will have to find an extra £2m out of its recurrent grant of £581m for next year and an additional £6m for the year after that.

A University Grants Committee spokesman said that while it was unlikely that any new science building, being completed would receive the proper equipment, many laboratories would have to continue to put up with obsolete

equipment and defer, yet again, buying the sophisticated new equipment on the market.

Dr Arthur Suddaby, provost of City of London Polytechnic and chairman of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, said it was difficult to know what a reduction of £11m-£12m in public sector building expenditure represented, since the Government White Paper, Public Expenditure for 1979-80, lumped capital expenditure in the whole further and higher education sector together, including the universities.

"Although the economists did not all agree that cuts were necessary, from a common sense point of view they seem sensible. So, given that cuts had to come, I cannot say that education has suffered unfairly. It seems a reasonably well spread

cut. The cuts in university capital expenditure, which account for 53 per cent of the total package, are to fall on the university equipment and Computer Board grant. The Computer Board will lose £4m out of a total projected budget of £21m for 1977-78, chiefly in services and delayed and abandoned plans.

The university equipment grant is already due to be cut from £46m for this academic year to £29m for the next year, which begins on August 1. It is not yet known whether the £24m cut scheduled for the fiscal year of 1977-78 will be taken partly out of this £29m or whether it will all come out of the equipment grant for the following year.

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Universities face main burden of Mr Healey's spending cuts

by Annabel Ferriman

Universities will take the main burden of the education expenditure cuts for 1977-78 announced by Mr Healey in the Commons last week. Out of a total package of £45m, university capital expenditure is to be cut by £24m.

The rest of the cuts are to be divided between educational building programmes in the public sector in England and Wales (£11m to £12m), education building in Scotland (£2m to £3m), the research councils (£5m) and museums and art galleries (£2m).

The cuts in the education budget turned out to be considerably less than had been expected. Some educationists had predicted cuts in the region of £150m. The rate of cut was also considerably lower than in some other departments, education only accounting for about 4.5 per cent of the £1,012m total. This compared favourably with defence (10 per cent), local authority mortgage lending (14.6 per cent), capital investment programmes for the nationalised industries (15 per cent), and trade, industry and employment programmes (10 per cent). Considering that education accounts for about 13 per cent of total expenditure, it took considerably less than a pro rata cut.

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DENIS RABBIT STRIKES AGAIN

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Unions join forces to condemn squeeze

by David Hencke

Unions representing 84,000 lecturers in universities, polytechnics and colleges joined forces this week to condemn the latest round of education cuts and their growing effect on the future of higher education in Britain.

The 29,000-member Association of University Teachers and the 65,000 National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education pledged joint action and a programme of cooperation at local and national levels to prevent further cuts and closures.

Professor William Wallace, chairman of the education committee of the AUT, warned that the Government has engaged in the protracted negotiation of higher education by a series of cuts starting in the 1972 White Paper Education: A Frame-

work for Expansion. He said that ministers and officials had been reluctant to regard the education unions as stage armies. From now the unions intended to present a united front whose real concern was to fight against further reductions in the education budget.

Mr Tom Driver, general secretary of the NATFHE, said that unions had to ask where education was going. It appeared the Government was downgrading it in its priorities. He was concerned about the recent increases in student fees and also about next year's rate support grant settlement, to be announced in November, which would squeeze local authority spending still further, threatening colleges and polytechnic budgets.

Mr Laurie Snapper, general secretary of the AUT, warned about the danger of "death by a thousand cuts" with ever-increasing econo-

mies hitting university and polytechnic research, student, staff levels and building programmes.

A joint statement issued by the two associations warned that "the nation cannot afford to throw away its heritage and its future, for children, for young people and for adults, in a hastily-conceived economy drive, with an obvious disregard for its effects at all levels today as well as tomorrow."

The statement said that on best estimates education spending would be reduced by £101m in 1976/77; by £428m in 1977/78 and by a "staggering £743m" in 1978/79.

In 1978/79 total education spending is only planned to be 11.4 per cent of total public spending while it will contribute 25.6 per cent of the total planned cut in public expenditure.

L.E.A. spending: back page.

NELP starts independent degree

by Sue Reid

North East London Polytechnic this week defied its critics and announced the start of its long-awaited one-year degree by independent study. The controversial course, to start in September, has received the approval of the Council for National Academic Awards after months of negotiation.

Twelve students from the polytechnic's Diploma in Higher Education course who graduated earlier this month will embark on the programme this autumn. The CNA, which has initially validated the course for a limited two-year period, has ruled that DipHE graduates will be the only students eligible for the first intake.

Last week 11 students from Dulmers College of Higher Education, Reading, graduated with the DipHE. Of the rest of the college's original intake of 25 students in 1974 five transferred from the college's Bachelor of Education programme and one was referred.

Forty-three students received the NELP diploma two weeks ago. Further six received a conditional award, and three failed. Like the new degree, the DipHE programme is firmly based on independent study.

Students from the NELP and Dulmers face the problem of securing jobs or transferring to traditional degree programmes at polytechnics, universities or colleges of higher education. The newly announced degree at NELP provides a "life line" for a dozen of the new diplomaes but the remaining 42, including the 31 from NELP, will have the task of testing the value of the diploma in the labour market.

Only two DipHE graduates from NELP and one from Dulmers have found permanent jobs so far.

One new diplomae from NELP has won a place at the New University of Ulster and will join the third year of the course. However, other DipHE students who have received offers from universities will have to undertake another two years of study to gain a degree.

The new NELP degree will ultimately be open to any students with a DipHE or those who have completed two years of a formal degree programme. There will be a second intake of students next January when at least 20 more of NELP's new diplomaes are expected to apply for places.

Students will take an introductory course of one term when they will decide on the programme of study they wish to take, the method of study involved, and the way their work should be assessed. These proposals will be submitted to a registration board of 25 members including lecturers from the polytechnic's school of independent study, a representative of each faculty and a team of external examiners.

Subjects of study chosen will, says the polytechnic, have to be related to each individual student's career aspirations, but there will be no limit to the range of possible subjects.

A tutor from the school will assist each student during the introductory course, which will be taken by respondents or evening attendance alongside other studies.

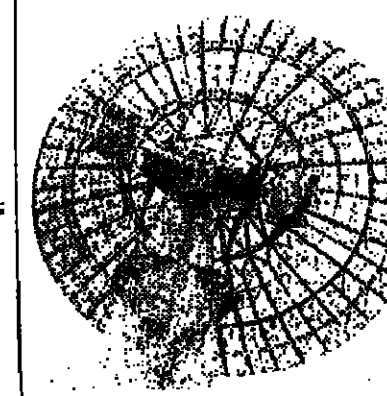
THES appoints new deputy editor

Philippa Ingram, at present literary editor of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, will succeed Dr Alan Cane as deputy editor at the end of July. She will continue to be responsible for book reviews.

Dr Cane is leaving to become editor of *Computing*.

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Labour's agenda includes 22 education motions

Only 22 of the 436 motions on the agenda for the Labour Party's annual conference in September deal exclusively with education, but it is frequently mentioned in another 18 motions dealing with the Government's cuts in public expenditure.

Several constituency parties call upon the Government to reverse the education cuts in order to reduce unemployment among teacher training graduates and improve pupil/teacher ratios.

The National Organisation of Labour students and Henley and Lincoln constituency parties, for example, all make this point. Henley suggests that a national maximum pupil/teacher ratio be established and the optional 2 per cent minimum growth in real per capita educational spending contained in the rate support grant calculation be made mandatory.

The 16-19 age group also received some attention. Portsmouth Labour party demands that the Government extend further education provision for the 16-19 age group and expand particularly the projected pilot schemes of vocational preparation. It also wants equal opportunities for part-time education for all young people, whether employed or not, and for full-time education for those with no other opportunities.

Leeds South Labour party welcomes the reference in Labour's Programme 1975 to the principle of the tertiary college and the end of the artificial division between academic and vocational education for the 16-19 age group. It wishes to see this principle extended to all adults who enter second chance educational opportunity and asks the Government to support experimental and pilot schemes in this sector of education.

While a large proportion of the education motions deal with implementation of fully comprehensive school policy, the Socialist Education Association proposes extending its principle to higher education.



Entranced humour delegates at Cardiff get to grips with hilarity.

When is a joke not a joke?

continued from page 1

Then a glorious Welshman who laughed at sub-Saharan jokes got up to say that the Welsh stereotype had changed. In sixteenth-century jokes they were always proud, argumentative and lovers of toasted cheese. It was not much of a change, he said, but it was a change.

In the room downstairs, after 20 minutes of groping round at the theological conference, a Texan professor of what sounded like watermelon engineering suddenly lapsed into "comprehensibility." "Funniness," he said, "is funniness." Adding as an afterthought, "once you understand the affective component."

For its central lecture the conference had in reserve a live comedy act. Mr Ken Dodd, who waved his tickling stick, squeezed boozers and played the academics never did a travel laughter's mystery.

The conference's final session suggested that Mr Dodd can rest easy. Drawing matters to a close, Professor Theodore M. Newcomb, of Michigan University, arguably the most serious-looking man on record,

said: "Well, what is humour?" and sat down. Delegates looked at each other in irritable silence: some felt they knew, some felt it would take generations, others felt it would be nice to sit out on the lawn as the sun was shining.

Three days of humour brought techniques of games of BBC cameras, men clambered over pyramids of home in on a lady speaker. "We don't have big ones like that in America," she said irritably to the cameras, pointing at a microphone. "Psychologists are ignorant," shouted one delegate refreshed after sleep during a discussion of Freud's views on condensation, which to the problem.

At the end, results of a conference questionnaire were announced. It showed among other things that 39 per cent of delegates felt animals did not have a sense of humour, although there was some general doubt about poodles. (One delegate, however, carried round with him a photo of a cat of his acquaintance who was beyond all question.

One thing emerged clearly: if we would be bright enough to work out how to do it.

School-to-work scheme planned

The Government this week announced detailed plans for an experimental programme of courses school to work. The first of about 20 pilot schemes will be launched this autumn and eventually the project will involve 6,000 school leavers a year.

The new vocational preparation scheme will be for the 16 to 19-year-olds who leave school and enter employment with little further education or training. The new programme will concentrate on young people in employment, but some unemployed school leavers will also take part.

Ten pilot schemes involving 1,000 students a year were originally proposed by the Government, but the number is now being doubled after mounting pressure.

The pilot schemes will be staged in colleges of further education, skill centres, industrial training board establishments and individual firms.

New film show use of museums

Stockwell College of Art has made a film which shows how history museums can be used to attract visitors. It is now available from the National Museum, London NW10.

NEXT WEEK

Worcester College of Education
Sir Sam Edwards reviews
Drama education
David Martin reviews
by Alvin Gouldner

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مكتبة الأصل

Avoid duplication and economize says librarian

by David Hencke

Mr. Hencke laid down his own priorities for university libraries. Undergraduate needs must come first, but at relatively little cost; standards in bibliography and reference must be maintained to meet both present and future demands; standard works, if never borrowed, must still be bought; research collections should be identified for central financing and management, he said.

Earlier Mr. M. B. Line, director general of the British Library Lending Division, noted that the rate of growth of published literature has recently been reduced as a result of economic factors. "The average academic article appears to be read by fewer than 10 people, and since some are read by many more than this, the readership for most must be in the region of two and three. One can reasonably conclude that most authors want to write more than readers want to read. It is logical that readers should be recompensed by authors for the service they render them."

He concluded: "I have the concept of a public reading right, which would enable readers to fill in a form saying 'I certify that I have read your article and I claim my price'."

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Preston to woo jobless into teaching mathematics

Preston Polytechnic has established a working party to monitor employment prospects for newly-qualified teachers.

The move follows a meeting of the academic board this month which has already agreed to propose to the Department of Education and Science a scheme to retrain the unemployed newly-qualified mathematics teachers (THES, July 9).

A five-point motion was passed by the academic board. It called for:

- special arrangements to provide grants for students completing teacher training courses who wish to proceed to further courses of study;
- reorientation courses to enable teachers qualifying this year to train for shortage subjects in schools like mathematics, physics and home economics;
- special validation procedures to help new courses meet these needs so that the Council for National Academic Awards and universities can react quickly to the problem;
- new teaching posts to be created in educationally deprived areas funded directly by central government;
- more open and responsive planning process for the training of teachers in which polytechnics will have a central role.

UK signs nuclear safety agreement

The United Kingdom has signed a cooperation agreement with Iran to provide consultancy services and assistance in the field of nuclear safety.

Iran is currently embarking on a substantial programme of nuclear power generation based on pressurized water reactors which are being built by West German and French firms.

Correction

Professor Rayner Banham and Ms Ruth Isenhardt, of University College London, have received a joint award of £12,475 from the Social Science Research Council to make a study of political and ideological aspects of the growth of owner occupation. It was incorrectly stated (THES, July 16) that Professor Banham was the sole recipient of the grant.

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Bristol students see Oxbridge shadow

by Jane Feinmann

Bristol University is upper-middle class and lives in the shadow of Oxbridge, offering good academic standards to the persevering which are not reflected in the level of intellectual activity of most students. These views are expressed by Bristol students in their alternative prospectus which has been produced for the first time this year and is being sent, free, to 2,500 schools throughout the country.

It aims to supplement the official university prospectus which "fails to give candidates any real idea of the course they are applying for, and makes no attempt to offer a more general impression of what student life involves both academically and socially."



Langford House, Bristol University

Art-to-science course at Lanchester

A new series of first-year courses in statistics, geography and geology which will make it possible for students with A levels in arts and social sciences to study for introduced at Lanchester Polytechnic in October.

Mr Pat O'Connor, coordinator of combined science courses, said the growing demand for students with expertise in statistics. The course has been broadened to include school leavers with any two A levels of which only one need be a science subject, plus O level mathematics. Until this year A level mathematics was obligatory. The new course will open up leads to combined degrees in statistics and another science subject.

Mr Roger Bratthwaite, head of the statistics department, explained: "We are hoping that this kind of combination will attract back people who have thrown over traditional maths at O level into at least the fringes of science. It would probably be expecting too much to bring about a full conversion to the physical sciences."

The second innovation at the polytechnic is the introduction of geology as a one year course, as part of the module science degree, and the abolition of the rule that only students with A levels in science or mathematics as well as geography can study geography to degree level.

"Fewer and fewer people are studying science subjects at A level and we found that a large chunk of the market was being lost from studying geography. There has always been a high subscription rate in geography even with the 'science only' rule, but we are looking to the future."

Dr David Smith, principal lecturer in geography at the polytechnic, said: "Now the module degree course in science will be open to students at A level and students. Fundamentally, we are the broad sciences which are more relevant to employment needs and where, we think, they will be more employable."

Bingley offers part-time DipHE for housewives

Bingley College of Education in West Yorkshire is offering a part-time DipHE course. It is aimed at housewives, shift workers, retired and unemployed people.

The course will be split into six units of study, each involving six hours of study a week and there is no maximum time requirement for completion of courses. There will be a wide variety of courses offered, including most of the traditional academic disciplines as well as newer areas of study of movement, social sciences, and creative and performing arts.

Mrs Frances Pitcher, secretary of In-Service and Adult Education, said the move was part of a decision "to diversify the role of the college so that, alongside its teacher training role, it will now have a broad role as a community college."

The decision was made some ago but the running of the college will be greatly facilitated this year because the first-year teacher training students will be leaving the college, and will mean that the part-time participants in lectures and seminars alongside full-time students.

At the moment, there are six part-time students enrolled in the college and recruitment in the area has still to take place. One of the students who last week, a teacher wishing to study in the evening, said he thought the response to the course would be "fairly massive."

Heriot-Watt research could double North Sea oil output

Research currently underway at the Heriot-Watt University of Edinburgh could double the amount of oil extracted from the North Sea.

The present method of extracting oil is by natural pressure supplemented by injecting water or gas. But water and oil do not mix and quantities of oil behind, trapped in rock pores. "Our present methods of extracting oil are pretty poor," said Professor Cecil Nutt, head of the department of chemical and process engineering at Heriot-Watt University, who is directing the research programme. "The so-called 'depleted' oil fields of America, for instance, still hold great quantities of oil."

There are two new methods of recovering the oil, at present under investigation. The first is to inject foam into the porous rock and a £7,500 equipment grant from the Science Research Council earlier this year enabled the team to test the performance of the foam in laboratory conditions, using columns of sand or rock and columns several feet high.

The second method, which is being investigated with a £10,000 grant from the SRC, is a different approach.

Instead of foam, the team is investigating the use of chemicals, somewhat like soaps or detergents, which emulsify the oil in the same way as washing up liquid cleans grease off a plate.

The only problem so far is the foaming and detergent nature of the chemicals, which could cause problems if they are used in the rock stratum or by dilution in residual water. But the team says: "It is essential that we get involved in this field of research if we are to ensure that the quick methods of extraction from the North Sea reservoirs are not going to be unnecessarily wasteful."

Tories may take stand on recurrent education

by Sue Reid

A firm indication of Conservative Party commitment to recurrent education could come this autumn if proposals put forward by the Tory post-school policy group win a place in the party's interim manifesto to be debated at the annual conference in Brighton.

The shadow cabinet has not yet approved the policy group proposals which stress recurrent and continuing education and call for a strengthening of the part played by further education colleges. But they are likely to fall into line with the Conservative Party belief in social mobility, although Tory leaders could be wary of any underlying commitment to "education for its own sake."

The policy group thinks that continuing education is a valid alternative to higher education. It favours further education colleges, at least being used as educational centres for all age groups with more opportunities being offered to adult students. Some members are also in favour of giving special preference to adults who have been in employment for five years, and who are over 24 years old.

They argue that adult education as a whole could be more strongly linked to further education with media and correspondence learning playing a primary role. There is a strong belief that courses could be tailored to specifically suit the needs of adult students, with the Open University acting as the feeder for a national system of continuing education.

One argument is that further education colleges and polytechnics could be linked closely to the industrial and economic needs of local communities. The group believes that if the colleges were encouraged to reflect requirements of local community education, courses could be suitably cut. Courses designed to suit locally-based students would, it points out, not involve residential costs and, when run alongside other courses, could result in a more intensive use of staff in the colleges.

The Tories have already openly criticised the Government's 12-week skill-oriented courses for school-leavers now being run by the Training Services Agency. They favour 12-month further education courses with a high educational element.

Forty per cent of Salford's graduates opt for industry

Almost 40 per cent of Salford University's first degree graduates in 1975 found jobs in industry, triple the national average. Figures just released by the university show that 38.9 per cent of Salford graduates entered industry compared with just 13 per cent from British universities generally.

The Salford statistics for graduates entering industry show up favourably against other individual university figures. Kent University has disclosed that 25 per cent of its first-degree output in 1974 found work in industry while at Strirling University the number entering the field fell from 17 per cent in 1974 to 13 per cent last year.

Salford University says that over the last three years 44 per cent of its first-degree graduates have entered industry compared with the national university average of 14 per cent. The university's 229 first-degree graduates from Salford out of a total of 692 found work in the field.

The university's careers and appointments service figures show that engineering and science graduates entered industrial research, design, development and production but a substantial number of arts and mathematics students also found jobs in industrial marketing.

Almost 50 per cent of Salford's first degree graduates in 1975 were still unemployed last December, a similar number of Kent graduates failed to find work by the end of the year compared with about 4 per cent of the Strirling output.

Figures released by the Kent University appointments service show that 33 per cent of its 1975 first degree graduates gaining employment entered the public services. A further 24 per cent entered commerce and about 8 per cent found work in education.

Of the 217 first degree graduates gaining employment in 1975, about 33 per cent went into civil service, local government, the health service or a nationalized industry. Eighteen per cent found jobs in commerce, an increase of 7 per cent over 1974, largely due to the high demand for trainee placements in accountancy.

Eight per cent of Strirling's graduates chose higher degree, 22 per cent teacher training and three per cent started full time secretarial courses. From Kent University 11 per cent of graduates whose destinations were known in December continued with academic work, 18 per cent entered teacher training and 8 per cent other types of further training.

For the third year in succession the Standing Conference of University and Polytechnic Appointments Service has launched a mutual aid scheme to put new graduates in touch with their local careers service. Almost all the university and polytechnic careers services take part in the scheme. They offer information and guidance to graduates from other institutions and are also willing to help students who have discontinued their studies early.



Prince Charles becomes new chancellor

by Stephen Pilo

Prince Charles has been elected chancellor of the University of Wales by what is believed to be a two-to-one majority over the former miners' leader, Mr Dai Francis.

The margin is a matter of belief rather than fact because the university court did not reveal the voting figures despite insistent cries from supporters of the defeated candidate.

The University of Wales registrar, Mr Gareth Thomas, said it was not the practice to reveal figures of the election. In growing scenes of confusion and anger a motion that the voting be declared was voted down. Amid Welsh language cries of "this court becomes more relevant to Wales every day" the gathering dispersed.

After the election, involving 200 court members from all corners of Wales, Mr Francis took an optimistic view of the results. "I believe the vote was 100 for the prince and 70 for me. That's not bad when you consider the prince had a built-in majority with all those lords and sirs on the court."

So ended an election which even the university registrar described as "unusual".

It showed two contrasting campaign styles with the student-based Mr Francis conducting a full-blooded campaign projecting himself as the "people's chancellor", bent on democracy and non-academic workers' rights. Prince Charles, by contrast, kept a low profile throughout, agreeing to stand and then leaving for the Olympics in Montreal.

He will succeed his father, the Duke of Edinburgh, in the office.

Correction

Sir Alex Smith is not a member of the University Grants Committee, as stated in last week's THES. He resigned earlier this year.

DES criticized for handling of college rationalization

by David Hencke

Criticism of the Department of Education and Science's handling of the rationalization of courses in colleges and polytechnic departments of education has been made in a report circulated by the London and Home Counties Regional Advisory Council for Technological Education.

The report is one of 10 to be produced by regional advisory councils following the publication of Circular 1.776 last January. This charged RACs with the task of establishing steering committees to produce a workable regional plan to conserve "shortage" subjects threatened with closure because of the reorganization of teacher education.

The reports are now being submitted to the DES with the aim of keeping subjects like mathematics, handicraft, French, music, physics, business studies, religious education, science and home economics on the curriculum. In all these cases, in spite of an overall surplus of teachers, shortages are being experienced in some subjects, particularly in the recruitment of adequate staff.

The report makes six major criticisms of the rationalization exercise. These are:

- constraints imposed upon the scope and nature of the exercise by the unreasonable time scale and lack of additional financial resources;
- lack of adequate quantitative information, especially in relation to shortage subjects and to teachers of these subjects; and
- difficulty in protecting shortage subjects without destroying the rest of the curriculum, particularly in small colleges;

constraints imposed by DES circular 1.776 which is mainly concerned with short term problems while ignoring the long term implications for colleges and polytechnics;

- problems encountered in dealing with shortages and surpluses on a regional basis where these are at variance with the national pattern;
- difficulty in assessing the contribution made by new liberal arts courses in the colleges because few of them have actually started. The report covers the distribution of 14,940 students in London and the south-east among eight polytechnics and 17 colleges. It includes four pages of detailed recommendations but it makes a major point, which is likely to be taken up by the DES. It is particularly critical of the future of small colleges. It is clear that merged institutions that include a polytechnic or college of further education present more possibilities for future curriculum development than small surviving institutions with a student population of less than 500. However, it appears that the full resource potential of polytechnic centres is not at present utilized.

expensive resources are to be used economically and any future growth must be based in the large 'mixed economy' polytechnic type centres. It is an unpalatable fact for small monotechnics to accept, but there is little merit in diverting resources to such institutions which the potential of polytechnics and large merged institutions remains untapped."

Private schools have best record for Oxford places

School leavers from the direct grant and independent schools are still winning proportionately more places at Oxford University than their counterparts from the state sector. This year 55 per cent of male entrants and 44 per cent of the female entrants to Oxford will have been educated outside the state system.

The latest figures show that 42 per cent of the male intake and 53 per cent of the female intake to Oxford this autumn will be from the maintained schools, which now cater for more than 90 per cent of the school population. But the direct grant and independent schools will capture a similar share of places, although their pupil total is comparatively small.

The proportion of Oxford entrants from the state sector has remained steady over the last decade. Between 1965 and last year, an average of 43 per cent of the male student intake were from the maintained schools, a slight increase over this year, compared with 56 per cent from the direct grant and independent sector.

Over the last eight years 49 per cent of female Oxford students on average have been selected from the state sector, a lower figure than last year, and 46 per cent from the direct grant and independent schools. Sixty-six per cent of the state

schools have successfully put forward male candidates this year compared with 11 per cent of the direct grant schools, and 48 per cent of the independent schools. The proportion of state schools successfully submitting entrants to Oxford has remained stable over the last 10 years but two per cent fewer independent schools, and one per cent fewer direct grant schools, are now sending students to the university.

The pattern is similar among female entrants. This year 63 per cent of the maintained schools successfully entered candidates, slightly more than in the past, while the proportion of direct grant and independent schools successfully putting forward women candidates has dropped marginally from an average of 34 per cent over the last five years to 31 per cent this year.

Schools in the south-east of England have won more Oxford places this year than those in other areas of the country. Thirty-six per cent of male entrants and 38 per cent of female entrants will be from the South-east.

Out of the 2,041 men securing first-year places at Oxford, 841 will read sciences, 417 social sciences, and 783 arts. Of the 703 women entrants 243 will take sciences, 107 social sciences, and 353 arts.

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Stop release student slump, ILEA urges

by Sue Reid

The Trades Union Congress and the Confederation of British Industry are to be asked to help reverse a dramatic slump in day and block-release student numbers in the London area.

The two bodies are to be approached by the Inner London Education Authority following the publication of a report on day and block-release courses which was debated by the authority's further and higher education sub-committee last week.

The report, prepared by the ILEA, shows that in the four years up to 1973 the number of day and block-release students under 18 in England and Wales fell by more than 22 per cent. In Greater London there was a 20 per cent decline and the number in the ILEA area dropped by 30 per cent.

Between 1970 and 1975 the number of day and block-release students in the authority's colleges fell by 36 per cent from 13,493 to 8,621. There was a 41 per cent decline among girl students and 35 per cent fall in numbers among the boys.

The report says that over the same six-year period the pool of young people eligible for day release remained constant, although some of

the potential students could have attended courses outside the Inner London area.

It adds that the large decline in the day and block-release numbers could have been caused by the move of engineering and manufacturing firms out of central London. These industries had a tradition of granting young employees day release unlike the light industrial and commercial firms that had replaced them.

The ILEA is a firm advocate of compulsory day release, a view that is shared by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education. But the authority says the scope for expansion in the 16 to 19 age group is limited because of the current financial climate.

A special working party, set up by the Standing Advisory Committee for Further Education within the ILEA, is currently investigating the possibility of new pilot scheme day release courses for students in the 16 to 19 age range and plans to identify ways of approaching employers about day release.

The further and higher education sub-committee now hopes that the TUC and CBI will help the authority find ways of reversing the declining numbers.

Teaching of reading to be monitored at London polys

The Inner London Education Authority is to stage a survey among London polytechnic education departments to monitor the standard of tuition in the teaching of reading skills. The survey may later be expanded to cover the colleges of education.

The move was agreed last week by the authority's further and higher education sub-committee after it had considered a report on the range of inspection in the London colleges of education which pinpointed the importance of tuition in the teaching of reading.

The report said that reading could not be treated in isolation from the rest of other languages, and maintained that the colleges had increased the resources devoted to this work in recent years. Several colleges had established reading centres and some of the Bachelor of Education course units that covered reading involved students working with classes of children in the field.

It said that there had been an increased liaison between college lecturers and school teachers and this had provided the lecturer with a "feedback" for use with students. But it also stressed the need for a realistic and highly practical process of college training in the basic skills, particularly reading.

More could still be done in the area and if the experience of the primary school inspectors could be brought to bear on the college education departments, this would be beneficial.

The report suggested that a conference or series of meetings could be staged between the inspectors, school teachers and college members to explore the tuition needs of students who planned to teach reading in schools.

However, the sub-committee favoured an informal survey to monitor the tuition standards in the area and if reading, it would initially cover the polytechnic education departments and could ultimately involve the colleges of education when their individual futures were more certain.

Artists 'will be consulted on validation'

Mr Fowler, Minister of State over-seeing education, has pledged that any national validation machinery for vocational courses in art and design will involve the interests of artists and designers in the education field.

Earlier this month Mr Fowler received a call for a free-standing body to validate the courses. He told the House of Commons that the Technician and Business Education Councils and other relevant bodies would be consulted about validation but that the establishment of an autonomous body would be inappropriate.

But he has now stressed that while BEC and TEC will be involved in discussions about suitable validation machinery they will not be the only bodies to play a part in the new validation system. He told the Association of Art Institutions recently that artists and designers would have a powerful role and members now plan to meet Mr Fowler for initial talks next month.

Speaking at the AAI annual conference he said: "I see a very proper interest in this area for both BEC and TEC but I am also determined to ensure that art and design interests and the approach of artists and designers is, if not dominant, a very powerful element of the new system."

There would be a validation and course structure link to BEC and TEC but which properly represented the interests in art and design. Mr Fowler's announcement that a new council for the validation of vocational art and design courses would not be established came as a surprise to those in the education field. Such a body was the central proposal of a special working group report on vocational courses in the art and design area which reported back in 1974.

But while many artists and designers in education are still wary of any BEC/TEC involvement in validation Mr Fowler's latest promise has soothed the angriest critics.

Researchers unemployment three times national average

by Frances Gibb

Unemployment among university researchers is now running at 15 per cent, three times the national average, Mr Laurie Sapper, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said this week.

"This figure is likely to worsen over the next few months as many more researchers' employment contracts come up for renewal, and the universities are unable to find the funds to offer further employment", he said.

It is estimated that there are about 4,000 research employees in universities. Of the 781 academics who, according to the latest Depart-

ment of Employment figures, were without jobs, the AUT reckons that between 690 and 710 researchers are unemployed.

Mr Sapper said that in 1970 when industry had expanded research, it was deplorable to go to waste.

The AUT was drawing attention to the fact where 10 or more researchers are being laid off, the university is obliged to pay a special unemployment premium of £20 a week to avoid redundancies.

Full house for Hume meeting

A conference to mark the death of the philosopher David Hume, 200 years ago is to be held at the University of Edinburgh in August. It has attracted such wide interest that registration closed several months ago.

Over 200 academics from all over the world will meet from August 9 to 14 to hear Hume scholars, including Sir Isaiah Berlin, president of the British Academy and Professor Lewis White Beck, the president of the American Philosophical Association, deliver lectures and seminars on Hume's philosophy and philosophy. During the conference the University of Edinburgh will confer an honorary D.Litt on Professor E. C. Mossner, one of Hume's biographers, until recently of the University of Texas.

The city of Edinburgh is currently celebrating Hume's tomb in the Carlton Hill Cemetery. There will be an exhibition of his



David Hume

scripts together with several reviews of him at the National Library of Scotland throughout the

What is history and why?

How did the study of history become a professional discipline? How do historians process evidence? These questions are central to a new part-time MA course in historiography and historical method to be run at Thames Polytechnic in October.

The course will examine, from different angles and at different levels, the nature and practice of history. It is designed to emphasise the importance of the relationship between an historian and his social and political context, and that history is itself a vital part of the process of social change.

Thames first introduced a course in historiography within an option on historical studies in its BA humanities degree four years ago. But courses in historiography are still generally thin on the ground.

Dr R. C. Richardson, a senior lecturer in history at Thames Polytechnic, said: "It remains, unfortunately, as true today as it was four years ago. Despite the growing range

and diversification of history in universities and schools, more of them do not require their students should make a critical analysis of the nature of their subject, its philosophy, assumptions, and its use of evidence."

The new course will last two evenings a week for two years, with an additional month allowed for the writing of a dissertation.

It has three parts. The first three strands: the development of history as an academic discipline and its sources; the historian and his social context; and the social and political context, and the history of the discipline. In depth in a dissertation, a particular aspect of one of these areas.

Among special subjects are the historiography of the Victorian age, the Victorian English Society 1830 to 1880, economic developments in Victorian England.

Boost planned for Hewett fund

An appeal is to be launched this autumn to expand the Stanley Hewett Memorial Fund, started last year after the sudden death of the former general secretary of the Association of Teachers in Colleges and Departments of Education.

So far £1,600 has been raised to help students and young teachers travel abroad to meet other teachers.

Contributions should be sent to the Stanley Hewett Memorial Fund, c/o Mrs E. C. Taylor, National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, Hamilton House, Mableton Place, London WC1H 9BH.

Tokyo students visit Scotland

About 300 students and members from Tokyo have been the guests of the University for two weeks under a scheme organised by the university's department of cultural studies.

This is the tenth successive year that Japanese students study tours to Scotland. They are familiarized with the country and its people and highlights of its history and culture. This year has been a "Scottish Year" followed by a "Japanese Year" including a display of the arts and the Japanese tea ceremony. The students also attended conversation classes at the university lecturers.

OU offers computer time to firms

The Open University is offering commercial firms time sharing facilities on its teaching computers in London, Milton Keynes and Newcastle.

On-line computer access is currently offered to about 16,000 Open University students. But as many of the users are adults studying in the evening or at weekends computer time is available for industrial users during the day.

The university has several thousand firms and organizations describing the computer facilities available. Companies that take up the offer will be charged a rate per connect hour for the first 100 hours. The Hewlett-Packard computers are single language and each capable of supporting 32 users simultaneously.

Credit launches journalism review

British mass media comes under scrutiny



Illustration by Gerald Scarfe for 1st edition of Journalism Studies Review

Present company excluded, journalists and academics have not always made the tenderest of bedfellows. In recent years however the mutual suspicion has lessened. Several new daily use Anglo-American

polytechnics run communications studies courses with a journalism component and to the traditional technical college courses under the auspices of the National Council for the Training of Journalists has been added the first university journalism degree.

This runs at the Centre for Journalism Studies at University College, Cardiff which was given an energetic start six years ago by the Grand Professor of Picture Post, Mr Tom Hopkinson. His successor as the centre's director, Mr Raymond Boston, has now taken the replacement between Grub Street and academia a stage further.

He has launched for a trial year a new journal to provide a platform for "serious and regular assessment of daily journalism—attempts to call attention to its shortcomings and its strengths, its history and its likely future, helping also to define or redefine standards of honest, responsible service."

The trouble with this aim, to judge by the first issue of Journalism Studies Review, is that the practitioners and the academics define it in markedly different ways. More important, their contributions are made in different languages which are often mutually incomprehensible.

To many journalists a sociologist's phrase such as "controlling agency" is tedious obfuscation. They turn to Leslie Sellers or Harold Evans or other journalistic primers whose iron injunction is to keep it simple. ("Controlling agency" is the police or the army or the Civil Service.) But to the sociologist, the journalist's preference for the concrete and particular is part and parcel of his "occupational ideology". The web of myth and tradition he spins around himself in his job.

Not all the articles in the review fall into this trap. Professor Jeremy Tunstall of City University, for example, is well known as an interpreter of the work of journalists through books such as *The Lobby Correspondents*.

His contribution is a synopsis of a new book which traces the extent of American influence in the newspapers and television systems of the world. He points out that dissemination of news is dominated by Associated Press, United Press

International, Reuters, Visnews, the BBC and Voice of America, which means that communicators around the world who deal with "foreign news" are daily use Anglo-American materials.

From the practitioners' side, Mr Louis Hearn, deputy editor and foreign editor of *The Times*, compares the standard and legal status of news-gathering in Britain with that in America and concludes: "I suspect that in Britain the freedom of the press, the public's right to know, does not rank high in most journalists' lists of priorities."

Journalism Studies Review is guaranteed for a year by University College, Cardiff, but staff at the Centre for Journalism Studies hope that it will attract sufficient subscriptions to become self-financing. They are making efforts to sell it in the United States, where academic study of the mass media is long established. Indeed Mr Boston makes great play of the need to give British newspapers the sort of attention the *Columbia Journalism Review* gives the American press.

The Cardiff review is not the first attempt to produce such an academic journal in Britain. Oxford University Press and Macmillan have both been involved in discussions in recent years, but it was found the market was probably too small.

Despite the growth of courses like that at the Polytechnic of Central London combining criticism of the mass media with vocational preparation, the number of academics seriously interested in the subject were few and many of those owed their academic allegiance to sociology, which is well provided with journals. Practitioners, on the other hand, have not shown much enthusiasm for criticism from academics. They content themselves with gossip column blighting, occasional articles on the state of Fleet Street, and the steady weekly *UK Press Gazette*.

Mr Boston hopes the new journal will change all that and bring British and the British press more in line with the Americans. One contributor argues the need for the creation of a critical community around newspapers and this might be the journal's watchword.

David Walker

Journalism Studies Review £1.50 from Centre for Journalism Studies, 34 Cathedral Road, Cardiff.

Government doubles number of vocational pilot schemes

by Sue Reid

The Government has bowed to mounting pressure and doubled the number of pilot schemes within its new vocational preparation programme for 16 to 19-year-olds. Originally 10 pilot schemes were planned but now the figure has been increased to 20.

The first of the 20 schemes, to help young people transfer from school to work, is to be launched in the autumn. In a joint statement last week Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment and Mr Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, said that the programme would ultimately cater for 6,000 young people, 5,000 more than first announced by the Government.

Although the programme is aimed at young people already in employment, it will also involve some

unemployed school-leavers. The 12 week courses, on a full time or part time basis, will be launched in colleges of further education, skill centres, Industrial Training establishments and individual firms.

Mr Fowler, Minister of State, overseeing higher education, has refused to reveal specific details of the colleges which will initially stage the schemes. But it has been announced that five industrial training boards, the construction, distributive, chemical, rubber and plastics, and food drink and tobacco boards, will organize pilots.

Mr Fowler said last week that the programme would cost "a low number of millions" to run. The cost would be shared between the Department of Education and Science and the Training Services Agency.

He maintained that the programme would prepare young people for the whole of their adult

working life. The 20 pilot schemes would pinpoint forms of vocational preparation attractive to young people and their employers. They would be used for an initial evaluation over the next couple of years.

Further education teachers and training officers will be involved in the planning of the new courses but central control of the programme will remain in the hands of the Training Services Agency and the education departments.

A further education review and development unit will monitor the progress of the programme in cooperation with local authorities and teachers. The unit, which will also review further education curriculum generally, was to have been set up by the Government this summer but has now been delayed.

The programme will not inhibit local education authorities from launching their own experimental schemes for young people.

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New compendium lists all courses

A list of all university courses on offer is contained in *The Compendium of University Entrance Requirements for First Degree Courses in the United Kingdom: 1977/78*. These include crop production, science, art, education, engineering, design at Loughborough University, electro-acoustics at Salford, and genetics and plant breeding at Aberystwyth.

It is published by the Association of Commonwealth Universities for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, available from Lund Humphreys, The Country Press, Drummond Road, Bradford BD8 8DH. Price £3.25 post free.

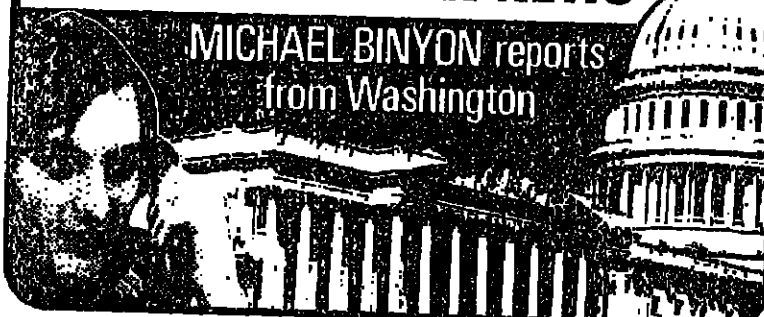
Bradford book flood

Four Bradford schools will be taking part in the "book flood" scheme organized by the National Book League and not two, as reported in *The Times* last week. One school from each pair will be supplied with books while the other will act as a control and receive only its normal supply.

مكتبة في الأصل

NORTH AMERICAN NEWS

MICHAEL BINYON reports from Washington



The Times Higher Education Supplement (London) Room 541
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Vocational education urged to change tack

Vocational education is the Cinderella of American education: neglected and abused and the subject of constant debate on how it could be improved. A new report now shows that unless there are major shifts in policy, the Government-sponsored programme will soon be training most of its graduates for relatively lowly jobs.

A study by the Conference Board, a highly respected economic forecasting organization, looked at the future of 123 different occupations which do not need a college degree. These occupations are expected to provide 2,750,000 jobs between 1970 and 1985—more than half all job openings in America. But most of them will be in fields paying less than \$9,945 a year, the median for workers in 1970.

The study, supported by the US Office of Education, shows that if vocational education is to respond effectively to changing demands, it must attract more women, non-whites and those who would have gone to college in previous years. In the 1960s and 1970s vocational education prospered, with more students, more money, more facilities and more expectations—mainly the result of a steep rise in the 14-24-year-old population. This age group increased by more than 50 per cent between 1960 and 1970—a greater increase than in the preceding 70 years.

But growth of this age group is now slowing down significantly, and will actually shrink between 1980 and 1985. People in this age bracket will therefore have better job prospects when they graduate, the report says.

New York to dismiss 3,000 academics by end of August

The first casualties of retrenchment at the City University of New York have been announced. Some 3,000 teachers will be dismissed at the end of August, including a number who have tenure. Most of them are college teachers, the greatest cuts in student intake are expected.

The faculty association has said that it will go to court if the dismissals are issued. The American Association of University Professors has expressed its "displeasure" and wants a final effort to be made to keep the teachers. It has appointed a committee to investigate the dismissals.

The university has taken this step in an effort to keep the budget down to \$470m next year, which it was ordered to do by the State. Last year's budget was \$539m. There are at present 19,000 teachers at the university.

BBC drama chief moves to Stanford

Martin Bell, head of the BBC's drama department and an authority on Bertolt Brecht and the Theatre of the Absurd, is to become professor of drama at Stanford University. He will take up his post in the autumn.

He will teach undergraduate and graduate seminars in dramatic literature, as well as an undergraduate course in directing the production.

Toronto closes 'Marxist' remedial class

A course to encourage culturally and economically disadvantaged—mainly black—students at the University of Toronto has been closed down because a special committee found it had become a vehicle for Marxist indoctrination, stirred up racial tensions and was staffed by incompetent teachers.

All the teachers on the course, called the Transitional Year Programme, are to be paid for next year, but they have effectively already been dismissed. The university is now setting up a committee to see whether another kind of programme could be started in 1977.

Started in the late 1960s, the aim of the transitional year was to bring disadvantaged students who were otherwise able to follow a university course up to entrance standards through a series of individual tutorials and intensive classes.

Once admitted to the university, these students were then regularly supervised to ensure that they were not falling behind. The programme helped about 50 students a year at a cost of just over \$100,000.

The programme has not worked out as the university wanted. It has been beset by bitter internal argument over its aims, which has led to great tensions among teachers and students. In January the university decided that there were so many reports of trouble that an investigating committee should be set up.

The committee of three, including one member from outside the university, issued a harsh indictment of the whole programme. It spoke of the "comprehensive Marxist orientation" and said the programme was "of minimal benefit".

Most of the students were encouraged to apply for the course by social agencies and ethnic associations, all were individually interviewed and assessed. Most of the courses were taught in Tunits College, a constituent college of the university.

The final selection for the coming year's intake had not been made. Those who had applied were told the course had been postponed for a year.

'Anti-female' ruling further fogs discrimination issue

Virginia Commonwealth University is to appeal against an important court ruling that stops the university's scheme to take on more women teachers.

The court decided that the university had procured reverse discrimination in selecting female applicants for posts in the department of sociology. Instead of a more qualified man, this, the court said, violated the 14th amendment, which guarantees a person's equal rights before the law.

The Virginia ruling is the first time that a court has actually said it is illegal to hire women in the place of more qualified men. It is being carefully studied by universities, which are having to tread a delicate line between the demands of the Government that they hire more minority group teachers and women, and white male teachers who are increasingly ready to turn to the courts.

A celebrated case by a student called DeFunis was brought against George Washington University two years ago. He claimed he was unfairly denied a place in the law school to make room for a less qualified black applicant. The case was never legally resolved because before the matter reached appeal, Virginia is appealing against the ruling because it believes it is an impossible situation. It is in universities, it is under pressure to increase substantially the number of women and black teachers. The argument was that there are not enough qualified women or blacks in many subject areas appears to be of no concern to the Office of Civil Rights.

The final irony is that many large universities are having to cut back staff as budgets are tightened. Under the collective bargaining contracts, now prevalent, the first group to be dismissed in times of financial exigency are those last hired. In many cases, women and black teachers are most vulnerable. In some cases, universities actually have a worse ratio than a year ago.

Oil-strike hope in California

The University of California has approved the exploration for natural gas on one of its campuses as a way of making money for the university. The Board of Regents has just given the go-ahead in principle for the drilling of 11 wells at the University of Davis.

Davis, with about 4,000 acres, has the largest campus of all the nine universities in the University of California system. It is confident that drilling will not disturb academic life. For gas exploration is a small drill that can be fixed to the back of a lorry is sufficient, and a need remain to provide a permanent supply.

The university believes it will find gas as there are wells just outside the campus boundary.

Chicago launches 'broad-based' medical course

The University of Chicago has now followed the lead established by the University of Rochester (THES January 9) in reorganizing its medical education. A new four-year curriculum in human biology and medicine beginning in autumn 1977 will cover the last two years of undergraduate education and the first two of medical school.

The aim is to give greater flexibility by breaking down the rigid distinction between the two, and mixing advanced undergraduate studies with pre-clinical medical studies.

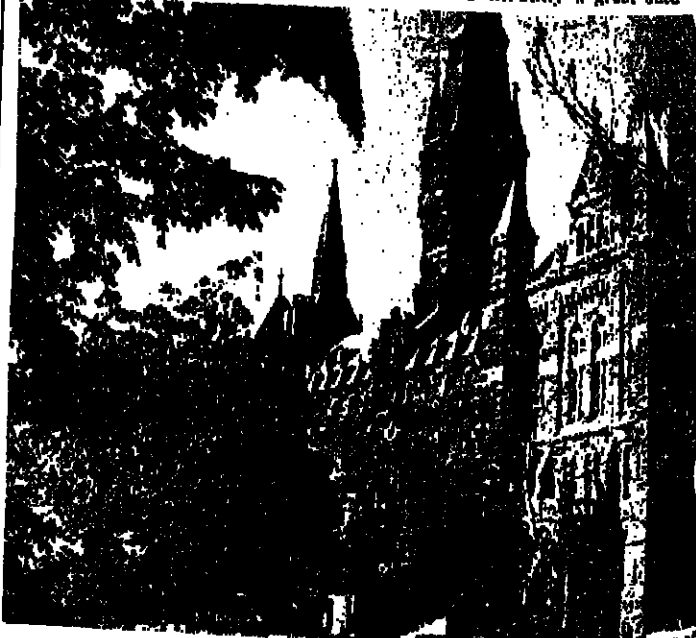
Students who do not want to complete the final two years for the MD degree will still have a broad medical knowledge which will equip them for a whole range of studies in the field of human health.

The new programme has been helped by a two-year grant of \$1,800,000 from the Commonwealth Fund of New York—the same fund that helped Rochester launch its plan.

The new MD degree will still take eight years but will be in units of two, four and two years instead of the present four and four. The first two years will, as now, be devoted to general education, and the last two will continue to be traditional clinical training.

The new four-year programme will integrate undergraduate biological sciences with biomedical sciences now taught in the medical school. There will be new courses in the behavioural, social, environmental, economic, ethical and legal aspects of medicine with the aim of setting medicine in today's broader scientific and social context.

Thirty students will be accepted



University of Chicago: following in Rochester's path.

Reading centre will aim to combat campus illiteracy

The site for a major Government-sponsored centre for the study of reading is about to be announced. All the indications are that it will be at the University of Illinois.

Applications for the centre were invited earlier this year by the National Institute of Education, the research branch of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The centre is the Government's answer to the keen and continuing concern about falling standards of literacy—particularly reading and writing—in America's schools and universities.

It had its origins during a series of conferences in 1973 and 1974, when experts concluded that research in reading was fragmented, enough to help them decide on new research that they were not coordinated between the Government and teachers in the country, and that many scientists investigating reading should be encouraged to give their work practical application.

The centre is being asked to develop a programme of interdisciplinary research into the cognitive and linguistic process involved in reading.

in the programme's first year. Those interested will apply in the fourth year of the course in the year at university, and then at the normal time to the medical school.

Chicago decided to undertake important reorganization because of the relationship between medicine and science has changed greatly since the basic pattern laid down 60 years ago.

The new programme, said Charles Oxnard, professor in the department of anatomy and physiology, "teaches that knowledge is not to be stored and consumed, but to be continually shaped and reshaped by use".

Previous attempts at medical universities to incorporate liberal arts content of pre-medical education have failed—usually because many liberal arts courses were seen as irrelevant to the medical curriculum. Given the choice, most medical students have opted for a more traditional curriculum, promising to give them added clinical proficiency.

But Rochester and Chicago now set a powerful new tone. The Rochester course began in 1969, and the university it is already a great success.

Peter Wilby reports from Sydney on the progress of Australia's longest-running academic controversy

Future of economics unit sparks new protests

The bitterest university dispute in Australia is now approaching the end of its sixth year, with a new wave of strikes, demonstrations and student suspensions.

Once again the University of Sydney is being torn apart by the disagreements in its economics department and by the campaign to establish a separate department of political economy.

Exacerbated by local personal antagonisms, the dispute is a classic example of academic rivalries, profound intellectual divisions, legal niceties and alleged departmental despotisms. Behind its complexities the issues that divide economists throughout the world at a time when their discipline is struggling through change and uncertainty.

The latest student strike—which may be resumed after the current short winter vacation—is over a decision by Professor Bruce Williams, the vice-chancellor, to ignore a compromise proposal by the academic board to give the political economists some degree of autonomy by creating a unit within the main economics department.

The dispute began in 1969 when two newly appointed economics professors, W. H. Ransom and C. E. Simkin, rationalized the department's courses, introducing a stronger mathematical bias and insisting on a sound grounding in micro and macroeconomic theory. The students went on to discuss policy issues.

In subsequent years, a distinct group of dissidents—known as the political economists—was formed within the economics department. They argue that traditional economics has reached a dead end and that the modern world requires economists to consider broad issues of social and political policy rather than just technical questions of economic management.

The political economists accuse Professor Simkin and Professor Hogen of discrimination against core courses and limited autonomy. They have been moved out of core courses into optional and service courses. They have been passed over for promotion—the last big dispute was when associate professor Ted Wheelwright, the leader of the political economists, was turned down for the department's third chair. As political economists leave, they are not replaced—since 1970, their numbers have gone down from 12 to eight.

The only solution, claim the dissidents, is a separate department of political economy and a full alternative undergraduate course. But so far, they have been allowed to offer only first and second year courses, despite support from the faculty of economics, which embraces economic history, government, economic statistics and accounting as well as economics itself.

The faculty is relatively powerless. The power to create new departments lies with the vice-chancellor. The power to propose new courses with subject professors and departmental chairmen.

Last October, the academic board (equivalent of the English Senate) appointed a committee of inquiry to look into the economics dispute. Its report, published in May, was critical of both sides and its proposed solution pleased neither.

It would also document and use the whole body of research on Government agencies and elsewhere.

Other aims are to help the plan initiatives in reading centres to show how research results can be used in improving the teaching of reading, and give quick and effective responses to student and staff complaints.

The centre is to be funded for three years by the Government, with a possible extension of two years. It is free to bring in whichever outside experts it wishes and to carry out any research to other organizations.

A main focus is to be the transition period in reading—the period when children go from simple decoding to skilled reading involving comprehension. This is the period when children form lifelong attitudes or aversions to reading, and the NIE believes, is crucial to further education, work and other things involving reading.

It endorsed the view of the orthodox economists that political economy is not a distinctive academic discipline, with a distinctive methodology, warranting a separate department. It also agreed that the political economists caricature the stance of the orthodox economists.

But the report added that proposals for revising the department's courses had been given inadequate attention, and that the department's work was being seriously undermined by the dispute.

It therefore proposed a trial separation, in the spirit of a marriage.

Other aspects of the White Paper have been widely supported. They include giving researchers and clients a greater say in setting research priorities, establishing better contacts between research organizations and the community, strengthening international links and giving research workers more job security.

The paper notes that between 1963 and 1972 expenditure on research increased 105 per cent in real terms to account for 1.3 per cent of the annual gross national product, a proportion only exceeded by Sweden among the Nordic nations.

Employment also doubled. Of the 8,390 researchers working in 1972, 54 per cent were employed in universities and colleges, the remainder in research council institutes and the remainder in private laboratories.

However, the universities only accounted for 34 per cent of research spending, mainly due to their relatively small size. Logical and scientific research. These subjects received 70 per cent of all support compared with 13 per cent to human and veterinary medicine, 7 per cent to social science and 5 per cent each to the humanities and agriculture.

At present the four councils come under the authority of different Government ministries. In future, coordination between them is to be strengthened by a Government Research Committee under the Education Minister.

The story has a final, deliciously ironic twist, in the middle of this latest dispute. The volume of *Reading in Political Economy*, edited by Ted Wheelwright and a Sydney colleague, Frank Stillwell, came off the presses. It is intended as the textbook for Sydney's first-year political economy course.

It includes an eloquent essay on *Socialism and Freedom*, first published in 1943 and written by a clever young man who was to become a professor of political economy at Manchester University and adviser in Britain's second post-war Labour Government, to Frank Cousins and Tony Benn. His name: Bruce Williams.

Increasing demand for management skills has led to the recent creation of Hongkong University's Department of Management Studies.

While the department aims to give undergraduates a general appreciation of management there will also be a Master of Business Administration programme.

Present plans envisage a total of 10 MBA students entering for 1977-78, and the same number for the following year. At the moment students in Hongkong wanting to take an MBA have to go to the United States or England.

One estimate suggests that 2,300 new managers are required each year in the public and private sectors of Hongkong.

There were angry demonstrations and teachers outside the Athens University earlier this month to protest against the Government's decision to place university vacancies by 3,565 places because of the overcrowded conditions.

Of the 80,805 candidates, 34,567 opted exclusively for the university.

There are 10,820 vacancies where there are 10,820 candidates; while 42,890 candidates included the higher technical colleges as an option. A total of 2,348 chose to compete exclusively for the technical colleges (compared with 1,267 in 1975) where there are 7,050 vacancies. There are some 1,500 vacancies in teachers' colleges.

Under-Secretary for Education, said that last year only 18,476 of the candidates had given the technical colleges as an alternative. This increase by 150 per cent, he said, "confirms how correct was the Government's decision to make a switch in favour of vocational training."

Norway Social science research plan abandoned

from Mike Duckenfield Scandinavia Correspondent

STOCKHOLM Norwegian Government plans to set up a new research council for the social sciences have been scrapped following criticism by the main opposition parties and existing councils. Instead, a new division within the Council for the Humanities and Science is to be created.

Opponents of the plan—one of the main points in the minority Labour Government's recent research White Paper—feared that the establishment of a separate council would weaken inter-disciplinary coordination and do nothing to stop the trend towards increasing specialization.

If it had been set up, the new council would have been Norway's fifth following the creation of the one for the humanities and science, agriculture and technology and natural science soon after the Second World War and for fishing four years ago.

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West Germany

Key court ruling backs entrance procedures

by Our Correspondent

A decision by the Federal Administrative Court in West Berlin has ended a year-old battle between Bavaria and the other Federal States over the selection procedure for university applicants.

The court has upheld the legality of the present system which has been in operation since 1973 as a result of an inter-State treaty made the previous year. This set up the Central Office for University Admissions in Dortmund to allocate study places in subjects in which there are entry restrictions throughout the Federal Republic. It does so on the basis of an applicant's average marks.

In the *Abitur*, the grammar school leaving examination, modified according to the "bonus-malus" procedure.

The average *Abitur* mark is calculated for all candidates in each of the Federal States and also for the whole of the Federal Republic. The marks of individual candidates are then adjusted upwards or downwards by the amount by which the *Abitur* average differs from the national average.

In the past the Bavarian average has always been 0.2 or 0.3 points lower (that is, better) than the federal average. Bavarian school leavers have therefore had their State's proportion of the total number of young people aged 18 to 21 in that year and one-third according to a State's proportion of the total number of applicants for a particular subject.

This new arrangement, however, also threatens to have its teething troubles. Hesse claims it will place its own school leavers at a disadvantage and is already considering an action in the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe to prevent its introduction.

From then onwards admissions in numerous *clausus* subjects will be made on the basis of *Abitur* quotas. Two-thirds of the places available will be allocated according to each State's proportion of the total number of young people aged 18 to 21 in that year and one-third according to a State's proportion of the total number of applicants for a particular subject.

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to apply there from the summer term of 1976.

Herr Hans Maier, Minister of Education, announced that Bavaria would no longer forward its *Abitur* statistics to the Central Admissions Office—a move which would have effectively ended inter-State cooperation on university entrants.

Fearing a complete breakdown in the admissions system the remaining *Länder* appealed to the Federal Administrative Court and in February of this year obtained an injunction compelling Bavaria to supply the necessary examination data to the Admissions Office and to implement the 1972 agreement.

This month's verdict, against which there is no appeal, has finally thwarted Bavaria's attempt to go it alone. It was immediately welcomed by Herr Rainer Jochimsen, State Secretary at the Ministry of Education and Science in Bonn. He believes it will facilitate the transition to the new university entrance procedure envisaged in the Framework Law for Institutions of Higher Education and research into force in the winter term of 1977-78.

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Behind the facade of Absolutism

evolve according to the laws of stress, flow, turbulence, surface tension and the constraints of three dimensional space.
Peregrine 29,00

Aggression need not be hostile

Geoffrey Underwood

Appointments wanted
Other classifications
Awards
Announcements
Exhibitions
For Sale and Wanted
Courses
Holidays and Accommodation
Typing and Duplicating
